

## J. Michael Locke

### Musings

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#### #95: Musing October 4, 2020

Crazy that the Trumps and many WH people got Covid. They were in the most protected bubble on the planet. Shows how transmissible the virus is. Wish them all well.

The Presidential debate was just embarrassing. Civil discourse in our society is basically gone. According to a recent survey, 36% of Ivy League students said that it was acceptable to shout down a speaker they don't like ([university-chicago-top-honors-depauw-university-worst-free-speech-poll](#)). We need more RBG ("I'm a very strong believer in listening and learning from others") and Bob Zimmer, President of The University of Chicago, "A university should not be a sanctuary for comfort but rather a crucible for confronting ideas" (WSJ opinion piece attached from a couple years ago.)

California continues to expand the role of government. Just because something is a good idea, doesn't mean the government should mandate it! New California law requires all public companies headquartered in California to have at least one board member from an underrepresented community by 2021 and for companies to have a minimum of three by the end of 2022, depending on the size of the board. Directors from an underrepresented community include those who self-identify as Black, African American, Hispanic, Latino, Asian, Pacific Islander, Native American, Native Hawaiian or Alaska Native, or who self-identify as gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender.

Another four hours at the DMV for me this week because they messed up our daughter's license the first time. The government is incapable of operating efficiently IMO.

I think our Covid KPIs are out of sync. Infection by itself does not mean much. Young people especially fight it pretty well. Positivity rate almost meaningless as it is measured against a set of people getting tested which may have all kinds of biases. I prefer hospitalizations and deaths. Challenge is these are lagging but they are the real marker of damage. Telling me 250 students at a college are infected doesn't give a lot of information.

According to the WSJ, "University of Chicago economists recently estimated that 76% of unemployed workers made more from the \$600 weekly jobless benefit enhancement than by working." [congresss-covid-income-redistribution](#)

You might be surprised by some supporting Trump. "Where I come out as a businessman, I will take the devil I know over the devil I don't know anytime of the week," BET founder Robert Johnson said of the presidential election according to CNBC. "I know what President Trump has done and what he's said he will do. I don't know what Vice President Biden has said he will do other than masks, listen to the scientists," the 74-year-old Johnson said. This is the same guy who was advocating reparations a month or so ago.

Two more “direct listings” on the public equity market this week. The traditional method of going public where the company sold stock through an underwriter (investment bank) who got 7% and was in charge of distributing the stock to institutional investors may be on the way out. Under the traditional method, banks often set a price lower when going out to get the “first day bump” and create positive buzz. This resulted in more dilution than necessary for the company. Direct listings don’t go through this process but rather just start trading at whatever price creates buying and selling.

Be safe.

jml